

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a method and apparatus for providing authentication for a subscriber of a wireless communication system employing one type of authentication technology roaming into a wireless communication system employing a second type of authentication technology. The method and apparatus involves transmitting (or receiving) a first message to a first system comprising a mobile identifier for a subscriber of the first and a second system indicator indicating that the subscriber is attempting to gain access to a second system that uses an authentication process different than an authentication process used by the first system; determining shared secret data for the subscriber using the mobile identifier; receiving (or transmitting) a second message from the first system having shared secret data associated with the subscriber; generating an expected response to a unique challenge using the shared secret data and an encryption algorithm, and transmitting the expected response to the second system.